

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02523 011514Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-12 EB-08 FEA-01  
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R 011350Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2023  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2523

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PROP, FI  
SUBJECT: FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS COME OUT AGAINST "NEUTRON BOMB"

1. IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL ON OCTOBER 27, SOSIALIDEMOKRATTI,  
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP),  
ISSUED AN UNEQUIVOCAL ATTACK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
"NEUTRON BOMB." NOTING THAT FINLAND GENERALLY HAS SOUGHT  
TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS,  
THE EDITORIAL STATES THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF WAR  
AND PEACE ON WHICH FINLAND CANNOT REMAIN A BYSTANDER. THE  
EDITORIAL THEN ATTACKS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB  
ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT DIMINISHES THE BORDERLINE BETWEEN  
NUCLEAR ARMS AND COVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND LOWERS THE THRESHOLD  
FOR THE USE OF NUCLEAR ARMS. THE EDITORIAL PLACES  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TECHONOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
NEUTRON BOMB ON THE UNITED STATES BUT ALSO BLAMES  
RIGHT-WING AND MILITARY CIRCLES IN WESTERN EUROPE FOR  
WELCOMING IT. THE EDITORIAL REJECTS THE ARGUMENT THAT  
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THE BOMB IS A "MORE HUMANE ALTERNATIVE" TO CONVENTIONAL  
NUCLEAR ARMS, SAYING THAT "IT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A STEP  
OF PROGRESS ONLY BY THOSE WHO ARE BOTH PROPERTY CONSCIOUS  
AND ALIENATED FROM ALL BASIC HUMAN VALUES, WHICH IS  
NO COMPATIBLE WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES."

2. SDP CHAIRMAN, PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA, ECHOED

THE SOSIALIDEMOKRATTI EDITORIAL VIEWS IN HIS SPEECH AT A JOINT SEMINAR HELD OVER THE WEEKEND BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SDP. THE JOINT SEMINAR WAS ONE OF THE NUMEROUS FINNISH/SOVIET EVENTS SCHEDULED IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESPECTIVE 60TH ANNIVERSARIES OF THE SOVIET OCTOBER REVOLUTION AND FINLAND'S INDEPENDENCE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO OTHER REACTION IN FINLAND CONCERNING THIS ISSUE, OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN A CLEARLY ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN BY COMMUNIST GROUPS ATTACKING THE NEUTRON WEAPON. NUMEROUS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED IN THE COMMUNIST PRESS. IN ADDITION THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SCORES OF POSTCARDS AND LETTERS FROM LEFT-WING POLITICAL, LABOR, STUDENT, WOMEN AND PEACE ORGANIZATIONS ATTACKING THE NEUTRON WEAPON, INCLUDING ONE PETITION WITH SEVERAL THOUSAND SIGNATURES. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE THE FIRST POLITICAL GROUP IN FINLAND, EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNISTS, TO COME OUT PUBLICLY AGAINST THE NEUTRON WEAPON. THERE HAS NOT BEEN INTENSIVE MEDIA ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE ISSUE, AGAIN EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNIST PRESS. ONE FAIRLY OBJECTIVE NEWS FEATURE PROGRAM ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON WAS SHOWN ON FINNISH TELEVISION ON OCTOBER 28.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009